(*f*) Rs. 50,000.
(*g*) Rs. 48,050.
(*h*) Rs. 48,050.

G. O. re registry of lands for cardamom cultivation in Devicolam taluk.

124. ✻ **Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai**: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is a G. O. of the year 1096 prohibiting further registry of lands for cardamom cultivation in the Devicolam taluk, and, if so, whether they will place a copy of the same on the table ;

(*b*) whether any registry has been effected after the date of the above G. O., and, if so, how many acres have been registered and in whose names ;

(*c*) whether there was any representation in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly at its session in 1104 for the cancellation of the above G. O., and, if so, what was the reply given by Government ;

(*d*) whether there have been cases of trespass into unregistered areas by non-Travancoreans after the date of the above G. O., and, if so, what action have the Government taken against such trespassers ;

(*e*) who are the persons that have so trespassed and what is the extent of the trespass committed by each ;

(*f*) whether the Government have now issued orders for the registry of 3,000 acres of lands in the Devicolam taluk in favour of non-Travancoreans ;

(*g*) whether any applications were received from Travancoreans for registry of any portion of the above area, and, if so, what orders have been passed by Government on such applications ;

(*h*) who are the persons in whose favour the registry is now proposed to be made and what is the extent to be registered in each case ;

(*i*) whether any conference was held at Bhaktivilas before the order was issued to consider the question of registry and whether any cases of trespass have been reported after the date of that conference ;

(*j*) whether the above area now ordered to be registered has been surveyed, and, if so, when and by whom ;

(*k*) whether applications have been put in by the trespassers either jointly or separately for registry of lands in their favour and whether they have admitted in such applications that their occupations commence only after 1096 ;

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[Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai.]

(*l*) whether, contrary to their admissions, the Commissioner of Devicolam has reported that the occupations had been made before 1096 ;

(*m*) whether the Government have recently issued a Press Communique *re* the registry of lands in the Devicolam taluk for cardamom cultivation and whether they have stated therein that 50,000 acres of lands are available in that taluk for Travancoreans and that out of this 25,000 acres are the best lands ;

(*n*) whether that area has been surveyed, and, if so, when and by whom ;

(*o*) if the answer to part (*n*) is in the negative, how the area and the quality of the lands were ascertained ;

(*p*) whether any order for eviction of the trespassers was issued by Government on the recommendation of the previous Land Revenue and Income-Tax Commissioner, and, if so, how many were evicted in obedience to that order ; and

(*q*) whether the lands trespassed upon are situated within the reserve forests or outside it, and, if they are inside the reserve forest, what action was taken by the Forest Department against these trespassers ?

Mr. K. George : (*a*) Yes. The prohibition extends to the whole of the Cardamom Hills Reserve and not to the Devicolam taluk alone. A *copy of the G. O. is placed on the table.

(*b*) Yes. 1663·08 acres in the names of 201 persons.

(*c*) Yes. The member is referred to pages 25 and 26 of the Proceedings of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly for 1104 :

(*d*) Yes. Peramboke cases were taken against the trespassers ;

(*e*) The list giving the names of the trespassers and the extent encroached upon by each is available for reference in the Huzur Office.

(*f*) Government have in their order R. Dis. No. 1753/34, Rev., dated 24-10-34, sanctioned registry of the existing encroachments in the names of the respective encroachers on certain conditions. The total extent of the lands to be so registered has not yet been definitely ascertained, and there are both Travancoreans and non-Travancoreans who will get registry under the above G. O.

(*g*) Applications have been received from a few Travancoreans for registry of the areas encroached upon by them and action is being taken as laid down in the G. O. referred to in part (*f*).

Vide Appendix II—page 644.

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(*h*) *Vide* answer to part (*e*).

(*i*) First part No. Second part—Does not arise.

(*j*) The work of survey is in progress and is being attended to by the officers of the Survey Department.

(*k*) Yes. Some of them.

(*l*) No.

(*m*) Yes.

(*n*) No. It is only a rough estimate.

(*o*) From personal enquiries made by the Commissioner, Devicolam.

(*p*) Yes. Government have no information.

(*q*) In the Cardamom Hills Reserve encroachers were mostly prosecuted by the Forest Department when encroachments were detected by that department.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : With reference to the answer to part (*e*), may I know whether the records of the Huzur Office are available for reference to the public ?

Mr. K. George : No ; but they are available to the honourable member.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : But, how are the public to get the information if they want it ?

Mr. K. George : The public cannot get the information ; and the list is too long to be placed on the table.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : After the G. O., has any registry been actually made ?

Mr. K. George : No.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : Is there an order that the trespassers should apply for registry and deposit money within six months ?

Mr. K. George : Yes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : How many have actually applied and deposited money within the period ?

Mr. K. George : The applications had to be made within six months. The time for the payment of deposit was extended to the end of Edavam.

8 Travancoreans and 208 Non-Travancoreans in Devicolam, and 2 Travancoreans and 117 Non-Travancoreans in Peermade, have deposited money.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know why extension of time was granted for depositing the money ?

Mr. K. George : Government considered that it was necessary.

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Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : What was the reason that weighed with the Government in deciding like that ?

Mr. K. George : As I have already stated, Sir, extension of time was allowed only for the deposit of the money and not for application. Those who had applied in time made representations to Government praying for extension of time for the deposit of the money ; and the Government thought that their request was reasonable.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know whether the Government propose to extend the time further ?

President : That question cannot be asked.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : What is the average yield in an acre of cardamom land ?

Mr. K. George : I claim notice.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : What is the area that has been encroached upon ? Has it been ascertained ?

Mr. K. George : The survey has not been completed yet.

President : That was already answered. The area is under survey.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : It was stated yesterday, in answer to a question, that the total area of encroachments would come to only about 2,000 odd acres.

President : Roughly ; that was all.

Mr. K. George : It was only a rough estimate made by the Devicolam Commissioner.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai : What is the area available for registry in the cardamom reserve ?

Mr. K. George : The whole of the cardamom reserve is about 336 sq. miles in extent, of which about 49,000 acres have already been occupied and improved ; and the Devicolam Commissioner says that the remaining area available for registry, within the reserve, for cardamom cultivation, would be about 50,000 acres.

Allotments for public works in the Quilon P. W. Division for 1108, 1109 and 1110.

125. **Mr. K. Padmanabha Panikkar** (*Ambalapuzha*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount yearly allotted for the Quilon P. W. Division during the years 1108, 1109 and 1110 and the amount actually spent in these years respectively, for

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II Muslims.	20
III Christians	
1 Jacobites	17
2 Marthomites	7
3 Syrian Catholics	11
4 Latin Catholics	10
5 South Indian United Church	1
6 Other Christians	30

Appendix II

Vide **Answer to Question No. 124 (a).**

Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja of Travancore.

Read again :—

(1) G. O. No. L. R. 14391, dated the 12th November 1909.

(2) G. O. No. 2981/L. R., dated the 18th April 1919.

Read also :—

(3) Letter No. 5943/18 of 1909, dated the 26th May 1919, from the Commissioner, Devicolam.

(4) Letter No. L. R. 4715/359 of 1909, dated the 16th June 1919, to the Ag. Conservator of Forests.

Letter R.O.C. No. 1003/Mis. of 95, dated the 19th November 1919, from the Conservator of Forests.

(6) Letter No. L. R. 10054/359 of 1909, dated the 11th December 1919, to the Conservator of Forests.

(7) Letter No. L. R. 269/359 of 1909, dated the 24th January 1920, to the Conservator of Forests.

(8) Letter No. 1817/Mis. of 95, dated the 20th March 1920, from the Conservator of Forests.

2. The correspondence read above relates to the tract known as the Cardamom Hills. It is a reserved forest under the Forest Regulation and lies partly in the Peermade taluk and partly in the Devicolam taluk of the Devicolam Division. In their order No. 14391/L. R. 359 of 1909, dated the 12th November 1909, Government directed that blocks of land suitable for cardamom and other cultivation within the above tract should be demarcated and separated from the forest area by the Forest Department and placed at the disposal of the Land Revenue Department. That was accordingly done and the red line running from north to south in the sketch appended thereto was approved as the boundary, the portion lying to the east of the line being treated as the *cardamom* area to be thrown open for registry and that to the west of it to be reserved as *forest* area.

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3. In 1913, the Commissioner, Devicolam suggested that three blocks of land within the same Reserve suitable for cardamom cultivation, comprising about 8,000 acres and lying to the west of the boundary line mentioned above should also be included in the cardamom area. After some further correspondence, Government in their letter No. L. R. 6446, dated the 20th August 1915, to the Commissioner, Devicolam, eventually approved of the Commissioner's proposal to include the three blocks, referred to by him, in the Cardamom area. The Commissioner was asked to arrange, in conjunction with the Conservator of Forests, for the fixing of a convenient and natural boundary separating the area to be assigned for cardamom cultivation and that to be retained as Forest Reserve.

4. On receipt of reports on the subject from the Commissioner, Devicolam, and the Conservator of Forests, Government ordered in G. O. No. L. R. 2981/L. R., dated the 18th April 1919, that the additional tract situated north of the east to west line marked in the sketch and demarcated on the ground be excluded from the Forest area and thrown open for cardamom cultivation. The views of the Commissioner, Devicolam, and the Conservator of Forests were also invited on the question whether the cardamom growing area originally decided to be made available for registry and the additional area ordered to be thrown open for cardamom cultivation might not be formally disafforested and placed entirely at the disposal of the Land Revenue Department.

5. In reply, the Commissioner reported in favour of the disafforestation. The Conservator of Forests, after making a personal inspection of the locality, expressed however the view that no area whatever should be disafforested. He was of the opinion that the idea of disafforestation of the areas should be given up and G. O. No. L. R. 2981, dated the 18th April 1919, cancelled, the areas already assigned for cardamom cultivation being treated as rights within the Reserve. Mr. Raman Menon also urged that the collection of revenue from registered cardamom lands within the area should be entrusted to the Forest Department in view of the fact that the revenue was really derived from within the Reserve.

6. The subject was discussed by the Dewan with the Conservator of Forests and the Commissioner, Devicolam, at Trivandrum on the 27th September 1920. It was brought out at the discussion that the area proposed to be thrown out of the Cardamom Hills Reserve is very extensive, being about three-fourths of its entire area measuring 336 square miles, that only small patches of evergreen forests here and there are taken up for cultivating cardamom,

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the grass lands and park lands all round being excluded and allowed to remain as waste without the payment of any land revenue to the State and that further the trees on the areas not actually taken up by the cardamom cultivators cannot also be exploited by the Forest Department as cardamom plants require the vicinity and the shade of mature trees.

It has also been elicited at the discussion that the cultivators of cardamom in this tract are natives of the adjoining British District of Madura and not natives of the State and that cardamom cultivation is itself now on the wane on account of a pest that attacks the plant and destroys it.

ORDER THEREON No. L. R. 9643/359 OF 1909, DATED, TRIVANDRUM 22ND OCTOBER 1920.

Government have carefully considered the question in all its aspects, and agree with the Conservator that further extension of cardamom cultivation within the Cardamom Hills Reserve need not be permitted. The orders of Government contained in G. Os No. L. R. 14391, No. L. R. 6466, and No. L. R. 2981/359 of 1909, dated the 12th November 1909, 20th August 1915 and 18th April 1919, respectively, directing the exclusion of the areas referred to therein from the Cardamom Hills Reserve, and placing the same at the disposal of the Land Revenue Department for assignment for cardamom cultivation, are hereby cancelled. The registered cardamom gardens within the Reserve should be treated as enclosures within the Reserve and access given to them through the Reserve.

2. The collection of land revenue from the existing cardamom gardens will continue to be made by the Land Revenue Department.

(By order,)
(Sd.) N. RAJA RAMA RAO,
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner, Devicolam.
The Conservator of Forests, Travancore.

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